IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (**original**): A potassium salt or a sodium salt of (-)-2-{[2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]thio}-3-[4-(2-{4-[(methylsulfonyl)oxy]phenoxy}ethyl)phenyl]-propanoic acid.

Claim 2 (**currently amended**): The ~~A~~ salt according to claim 1 which is a potassium salt.

Claim 3 (**currently amended**): The ~~A~~ salt according to claim 1 which is a sodium salt.

Claim 4 (**currently amended**): The ~~A~~ salt according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 which may be~~ which is in the form of a solvate, a hydrate, a mixed solvate/hydrate, an ansolvate or an anhydrate.

Claim 5 (**currently amended**): The ~~A~~ salt according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4~~ which is in crystalline or- partially crystalline form.

Claim 6 (**currently amended**): A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 in admixture with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, diluents and/or carriers.

Claim 7 (**withdrawn**): A method of treating or preventing lipid disorders (dyslipidemia) whether or not associated with insulin resistance comprising the administration of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 to a mammal in need thereof.

Claim 8 (**cancelled**).

Claim 9 (**withdrawn**): A method of treating or preventing type 2 diabetes comprising the administration of an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 to a mammal in need thereof.

Claim 10 (**currently amended**): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 combined with another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of disorders associated with the development and progress of atherosclerosis ~~such as hypertension, hyperlipidaemias, dyslipidaemias, diabetes and obesity~~.

Claim 11 (**new**): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 10 wherein said therapeutic agent is useful in the treatment of a disorder associated with the development and progress of atherosclerosis selected from hypertension, hyperlipidaemias, dyslipidaemias, diabetes and obesity.